

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /111 W

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R 221635Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4501

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAO PAULO 1885

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: OUSTER OF SAO PAULO MAYOR FIGUEIREDO FERRAZ

1. GOVERNOR LAUDO NATEL BRISKLY DISMISSED SAO PAULO'S NON-POLITICAL MAYOR FIGUEIREDO FERRAZ AUGUST 21. THE BRIEF NOTICE OF DISMISSAL WHICH MERELY ASSERTS THE IMPERIOUS NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE QUOTE TUNING UNQUOTE BETWEEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE MUNICIPALITY WAS CARRIED TO THE MAYOR AT CITY HALL AT 7:00 PM BY THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSEHOLD.

2. THE TIMING OF THE ACTION WAS A COMPLETE TACTICAL SURPRISE, BUT THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS A LONG HISTROY. ALTHOUGH THE MAYOR SERVED AS STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION IN LAUDO'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS NOT THE GOVERNOR'S PERSONAL CHOICE AS MAYOR, A POSITION WHICH BRINGS THE INCUMBENT IN CONTACT WITH ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTERS OF THE STATE AND MAKES HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR A BUDGET LARGER THAN THAT OF MOST BRAZILIAN STATES. THE MAYOR REFUSED TO BECOME POLITICIZED OR CORRUPTED. HE REJECTED ALL OFFERS TO JOIN THE ARENA PARTY. HE REFUSED OUTRIGHT IN MAY 1973 TO REPLACE KEY ADVISERS IN THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION WITH ARENA HENCHMEN SUGGESTED BY LAUDO'S POLITICAL HATCHETMAN RAFAEL BALDACCI.

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A LOCAL POLITICAL CRISIS DEVELOPED. UNDER FEDERAL PRESSURE,

FIGUEREDO FERRAZ APPEARED SUDDENLY AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE WITH ALL HIS MUNICIPAL SECRETARIES AND MADE KOW-TOW WHICH RESTORED EXTERNAL UNITY. THE OBEISANCE PERMANENTLY ALIENATED THE MESQUITAS AND O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, WHICH HAD BEEN BUILDING FERRAZ UP AS A SUCCESSOR IN THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE. THE CULMINATION OF THE FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE MAYOR'S ORDER TO CLOSE J.J. ABDALLA'S CEMENT FACTORY FOR CONTINUED AIR POLLUTION WHICH WAS ISSUED WITHOUT CONSULTING THE GOVERNOR. THE ORDER PROMPTED PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS TO SEIZE VARIOUS PROPERTIES OF ABDALLA TO MEET LONG UNPAID FEDERAL TAX BILLS, BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTERVENE TO SAVE THE MAYOR.

3. THE NEW MAYOR IS MIGUEL COLASUONNO, A 34-YEAR OLD PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS WHO WORKED ON THE JOINT USAID/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR BRAZIL AND THEN HAD A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE TAKING OVER IN EARLY 1971 AS SECRETARY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC COORDINATION FOR SAO PAULO STATE. COLASUONNO IS CONSIDERED A TECHNICIAN AND NOT A POLITICIAN, BUT HE IS A PROTEGE OF DELFIM NETO AND NOW OWES A LOT TO LAUDO NATEL. COLASUONNO IS SAID TO BE DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED WITH MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AND NOISE POLLUTION. HE HAS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN WORKING OUT THE PLANS FOR THE GREATER MUNICIPAL AREA OF SAO PAULO, RECENTLY CREATED BY FEDERAL STATUTE.

CHAPIN

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